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TRADE TURNOVER DOUBLES PREWAR FIGURE

Whereas in 1938 all commerce was privately controlled, in 1946, the year in which the foundations of the state and cooperative sectors were laid, 13.9 percent of trade turnover was in the state sector, 3.3 percent in the cooperative sector, and 82.5 percent in the private sector. In 1947, the ratio had changed to 46.6 percent for the state sector, 18.4 percent for the cooperative, and 35 percent for the private. In 1948, 48.8 percent was state, 27 percent cooperative, and 24.2 percent private. In 1949, 43.6 percent was state, 40.3 percent cooperative, and only 16.1 percent private.

The activities of the state and cooperative sector are concentrated on industrial production, food production, and agricultural and livestock production. The private sector, which is concerned chiefly with agriculture and livestock-raising, serves as an auxiliary to the state and cooperative sectors.

Whereas before the war all stores were privately owned, the number of state and cooperative stores increased from an index of 100 (in 1946) to 160 for state and 230 for cooperative stores in 1949. The private sector decreased from an index of 100 in 1938 to 17.8 in 1949.

The commercial net is being extended more and more throughout the industrial centers, so that it may operate primarily for the benefit of the working classes. Commercial cooperatives serve the dual purpose of supplying the workers of the cities and villages and of combating the speculation of the private sector. They are concerned with the distribution of the products not only of industry and the trades, but also of agriculture and stock-raising. The crop purchase of farm produce has increased steadily from year to year, from an index of 100 in 1947 to 144.95 in 1948 and 224 44 in 1949. The cooperatives move these products from the farms and distribute them to the working population.

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Cooperatives also play an important role in processing agricultural raw materials and meat products, in baking bread, and in distributing fuel to the working masses. The net of processing workshops has increased from an index of 100 in 1947 to 107 in 1948 and 320 in 1949.

The cooperative organizations in the cities and villages now have a membership of 171,000 families, or 902,354 individuals.

Before the war, foreign trade was in private hands. After the liberation it passed over completely to the state. Whereas in 1938, consumers' goods made up 94 percent of all imports, in 1949 they made up only 34.12 percent. In an effort to build up its economy, Albania has increased its imports from an index of 100 in 1938 to 203.2 percent in 1949.

The increase of production in Albania has made it possible for Albanian exports to increase from an index of 100 in 1938 to 130.4 in 1949. Exports include minerals, meat products, industrial plants and wood, medicinal plants, antiquities, etc.

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